

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07083 230923Z

15

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 3029 DTD 22 DEC 75 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: HINDUSTAN STANDARD DEFENDS CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY PL 480
SCIENTIFIC PROJECT

1. DURING THE "ANTI-FASCIST CONFERENCE" HELD IN CALCUTTA IN
THE SECOND HALF OF NOVEMBER, PROFESSOR NIRMALYA BAGCHI OF CALCUTTA
UNIVERSITY, WHO IS DESCRIBED AS A FORMER CPI MEMBER, CHARGED
THAT THE UNIVERSITY WAS COOPERATING WITH THE CIA AND THE US AIR
FORCE. BAGCHI SAID THE CIA WAS CHANNELING FUNDS INTO THE WORLD
UNIVERSITY SERVICE CENTER, APPARENTLY A STUDENT AID TYPE
ORGANIZATION, AND POINTED THE FINGER AT THE UNIVERSITY'S RADIO
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT FOR CARRYING OUT A PL 480 PROJECT IN COOPERA-
TION WITH THE US AIR FORCE'S ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH CENTER IN
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. THERE FOLLOWED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE
UNIVERSITY AND A CATEGORICAL DENIAL BY UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES
THAT IT WAS GETTING FUNDS FROM THE CIA IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM.
THE UNIVERSITY, HOWEVER, DID NOT DENY ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE
PL 480 US AIR FORCE RESEARCH PROJECT AND APPARENTLY THE CPI HAS
CONTINUED TO ATTACK IT FOR BEING IN THE SERVICE OF THOSE GUILTY
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OF DROPPING NAPALM ON THE DEFENSELESS PEASANTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

WE RECENTLY SENT TRANSLATIONS OF PRESS ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT
TO THE EMBASSY SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE.

2. WE WERE INTERESTED TO FIND A RINGING DEFENSE OF THE RADIO
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT AND THE PL 480 PROJECT IN QUESTION IN THE
MAIN FEATURE ARTICLE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE HINDUSTAN STANDARD'S
SUNDAY DECEMBER 21 EDITION. ARTICLE SAYS THAT WHEN IN 1970 THE
USSR LAUNCHED ITS SATELLITES IN THE MOLNIYA SERIES RADIO PHYSICS
DEPARTMENT OF CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY "LOST NO TIME IN GETTING IN
TOUCH WITH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, ALMOST BEGGING THEM TO SEND
DOWN DATA CONCERNING THE FREQUENCY AND POSITION OF THE MOLNIYA
SIGNALS." SOVIETS FAILED TO REPLY SO WHEN US PUT SATELLITES INTO
ORBIT OVER AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN, RADIO PHYSICS DEPARTMENT
APPROACHED US AUTHORITIES. ARTICLE CAREFULLY EXPLAINS THAT USG
WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE BUT FUNDING WAS AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH
PL 480 AND ONLY IF A US SPONSOR COULD BE FOUND, THAT USAF WAS
READY TO SPONSOR, AND THAT USAF PROGRAM INVOLVED IS PURELY
SCIENTIFIC NOT MILITARY. SAYS INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY THE RADIO
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT IS SIMPLY PUBLISHED IN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS
AND NOT SUBMITTED THROUGH ANY OTHER CHANNELS TO USAF. ARTICLE
CLOSES WITH CONDEMNATION OF THE CPI FOR TRYING "TO DRAG INTO
CONTROVERSY IMPORTANT NAMES AND IMPORTANT CENTER OF LEARNING..."

3. COPY OF ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE.
KORN

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